

Dr. J. S. S. S. S. S.

Courier

L. 7,750

1961

Undercover Agency

Less is known about what the Central Intelligence Agency does than any other important branch of the federal government. Even Congress, which votes the money for its operations, knows very little about what goes on within its ranks.

This is necessary if the agency is to function properly. It employs secret agencies, no doubt, and has other unorthodox ways of getting information which cannot be disclosed even to congressmen. They are notoriously talkative. It might even use such methods as bribery, for we know.

Allen Dulles' resignation as chief of this agency was accompanied by some kind and complimentary remarks from President Kennedy.

Nevertheless, the reasonable assumption is that Dulles was asked to quit. The CIA has been blamed for the fizzled Cuban invasion attempt and there have been rumors ever since that Dulles would be replaced.

How good is the CIA as a source of information? Citizens, congressmen even, have really no way to know. We can't tell if Dulles was competent and the Cuban disaster was the fault of others who drew erroneous judgments from information supplied by the CIA, or if the CIA itself was in error.

Historically, our government's intelligence service has not been particularly brilliant. Maybe it's because United States citizens don't take naturally to espionage.

As far back as the civil war, our intelligence service was terrible.

The CIA of that day was Allan Pinkerton, founder of a detective agency which still bears his name. Gen. George B. McClellan, first commander of the Army of the Potomac, depended almost entirely upon Pinkerton for his information about the strength of Gen. Robert E. Lee's opposing Confederate army and Pinkerton was consistently wrong. He always guessed the Confederate strength at from

two to three times what it actually was. McClellan always thought he was outnumbered when actually he sometimes outnumbered his opponent two to one. As a result, the Union forces missed many fine opportunities for early victory.

Is our intelligence service still as poor as it was in those days? It wasn't very good in World War I, and in that war, and World War II we used the efficient intelligence services of our allies more than we did our own.

The glimpse into CIA activities that the Cuban invasion gave us wasn't reassuring.

ATINTEL